

# The Sun

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## Mr. Bryan Should Have the Benefit of the Doubt.

The speculation about Mr. BRYAN's course if the Ways and Means Committee reports a 20 per cent. duty on raw wool seems unwarranted unless Mr. BRYAN intends to resign as Secretary of State and reenter the political arena. Why should Secretary BRYAN take an active interest in tariff revision, which is the business of Congress and the President? Mr. BRYAN's concern is with the foreign relations of the Government now, and not with domestic affairs or with party or political questions.

It will take all of the Secretary's working hours for twelve months at least to get into touch with the foreign relations of the Government, even with the expert assistance of the indispensable ALLEY A. ADEE. Mr. BRYAN is overwhelmed with the cares and responsibilities of his post of dignity and usefulness; in fact he is so absorbed in mere routine that red tags have been attached to important documents lest he overlook them. The wonder is how he has time to receive any person but a subordinate in the State Department.

Heads of the most honorable and exclusive Department of the Government have always been reticent, and usually they have been inaccessible men. It is a tradition of the office that the Secretary shall not talk on any question of State, and obviously he is not to interfere with any function of Congress. Mr. HAY, Mr. ROOT, Mr. KNOX never asked any member of that body to vote for free wool or indeed took any apparent interest in tariff legislation. Why is it assumed that Secretary BRYAN will meddle? He has brilliant flashes of silence and can be the soul of discretion. It may be pure assumption that he will not be a diligent and preoccupied Secretary of State. It is hardly fair to doubt him.

## The Minimum Wage.

If the wages of one class of workers are to be fixed in accordance with their needs, rather than their earning capacities or the state of the labor market, it seems only fair that the same principle should prevail with all wage earners. This extension of the application of the theory will lead the speculative observer to interesting conclusions.

Thus if a single woman deserves a certain wage to support herself in comfortable decency, obviously a widow with a child must have a higher wage, a widow with two children still more money, and so on up to the working woman having the largest number of children. These wages must be readjusted whenever the earner's obligations change, as, for example, when each child goes to work for itself.

But if women are to have wages measured by their needs, the same measure must be given to men. The unmarried man without dependents does not need so much money as the unmarried man with a sister or a mother to support, or as the married man with wife and children to feed and clothe and educate. Again, the man whose sons show an early instinct for trade and enter one of the numerous employments, mostly soliciting and peddling, to which the youth of the land is so earnestly entreated by publishers, manufacturers and merchants, does not need so high a wage as the father of children less enterprising. Nor does the father of a child whose ambition is to "get to work" need an income as large as that parent whose offspring aspires to practise one of the arts.

Were the attempt made to adjust all wages to meet the obligations of each employee, rather than to recompense him for services rendered, it is plain that the employer would have to deal not with the individual worker, but with his family. Not, "What can you do?" but, "What must you have?" would be the question put to the seeker for work. A man may doubt the practicability of such a system without thereby writing himself down as entirely ignorant of the inequalities and injustices of the present competitive order.

## The Franco-German Tension.

It is a new experience for France to be posted as "The Mischief Maker" by a semi-official German newspaper, the Cologne Gazette, and to be held responsible for the Kaiser's costly plan of army expansion. M. CHERON, reporter of the Budget Committee in the Chamber of Deputies, made a comparison in the middle of February between French and German military budgets. In 1902, he said, the German expenditure exceeded the French by, in round numbers, \$24,200,000; in 1908 the difference was \$61,200,000; this year it would be \$65,000,000, and next year about \$100,000,000. From

the French point of view Germany has been the mischief maker for more than a decade, and France has deemed herself fortunate to escape another great conflict by the address of her statesmen and the entente with England. The three years military service bill was provoked by the sudden resolution of Germany to raise the strength of her peace army to 850,000 men.

No French statesman could view the latest scheme of German expansion without alarm. What is called the Law of June, 1912, fixed the peace strength at 544,211. It must be understood that this total, like the maximum now contemplated, was to be attained in a term of years, and not immediately. The design was, and is, to have a larger army available for a declaration of war, or for an act of war without notice. Mobilization later would be on a gigantic scale.

While it is true that in the event of a Continental war involving most of the Powers France would be Germany's most formidable antagonist, the tremendous policy of expansion now inaugurated at Berlin was not inspired by fears of the military power of France. If there had been no collapse of Turkey in the war with the Balkan Allies, the Law of June, 1912, would not have been superseded. In entering upon an expansion of the first line of battle such as was not considered seriously a year ago, although the General Staff may have made its own calculations, Germany is anticipating what may never happen, but what it will be prepared for, a general war on the Continent.

The new factor in the situation is an anti-German Balkan Confederation, which if it keeps intact and is harmonious could put 800,000 men in the field. Behind it is Russia, whose military strength, in numbers greater than that of Germany, can command liberal appropriations from the Duma. Of the prowess of the army of Austria-Hungary the General Staff at Berlin has no great opinion, and Italy with her new African possessions to guard is weakened as a member of the Triple Alliance. To deal with one powerful enemy on her eastern frontier and with a warlike nation fired by a passion for revenge on her western frontier Germany would have to depend mainly upon her own military resources. Thus her stupendous preparations for a conflict which would not inevitably may come like a bolt out of the blue are accounted for. Nothing has remained for France to do but to increase her army and be ready.

## The Reassembling of Parliament.

The British Parliament has of late years become a singularly strenuous body and some of its members must often sigh for the golden age when it rose in August in time to get up to the Scotch moors for the opening of the grouse shooting and reassembled the following February. The recess just concluded was the shortest on record, the fact of its being cut down to two days being no doubt due to the waste of ten previous days in November when the Government was defeated by a snap division over an amendment to the home rule bill. Some of the Tories who then rejoiced with exceeding great joy, now returning jaded and unrefreshed to their labors, must regret that Pyrrhic victory.

Except for a futile attempt on the part of the militant suffragettes to present a petition to the King, the state opening of Parliament on Monday passed off without incident. The King's speech contains no announcement of any particular interest and no hint as to the amount which is to be expended on armaments during the forthcoming year. There are temperate congratulations on the efforts of the Powers to promote peace, and acknowledgments to the Dominion of Canada for the share she proposes to take in imperial defence.

The most important business before the House of Commons is the re-passing of the home rule and Welsh disestablishment bills rejected by the Lords, which must be passed three times in different sessions before they can automatically become law. Apart from these bills, which will probably be passed without prolonged discussion, the most contentious measure foregrounded is likely to be that for the development of a national system of education, a problem which the Government tried in vain to settle at the beginning of its career and which was one of the principal causes contributing to the struggle with the House of Lords and the passing of the Parliament act.

## Fairness to a Foreign Scientist.

Under this caption THE SUN has urged the propriety and wisdom of offering an impartial trial to Dr. FRIEDMANN, the discoverer of a bacterin for which remarkable curative property in tuberculosis is claimed. It is gratifying to note that after many trying vicissitudes this course is now being adopted by our hospitals.

It must be acknowledged that all the press of this country has not displayed the American spirit of fair play in the treatment of Dr. FRIEDMANN, being misled by the violent opposition of a large majority of our medical journals and the action of some of our medical societies. The latter are the watchdogs of medical ethics, the rules of which are in their turn intended to protect the people against imposition in that most precious matter their health.

To the average reader medical ethics appears to aim at the protection of medical men rather than the welfare of the public. This is a fallacious idea. Time was when the narrowness of the so-called regulars excluded properly qualified practitioners from fellowship, just as difference of doctrinal points antagonized certain religious sects. The millennium has not yet arrived in either theology or medicine. The latter is far in advance of the former, however, in this regard because it is more clearly demonstrable.

cine was practically an eleemosynary profession, temples were the clinics and priests the doctors. HIPPOCRATES, the Father of Medicine, brought to its study and practice a wealth of good sense that inured to the benefit of patient and doctor alike, removing much of the existing mysticism while insisting upon the sacred character of the physician's calling. The beneficent influence of the "Hippocratic oath" happily still sways the medical mind; and to this fact must be attributed the seeming indifference of the true physician to the interests of the patient when a question of ethics is involved.

The Friedmann discovery did not get a fair trial in Germany because the doctor withheld some of the details of the preparation and administration of the new agent. The opposition appears to have arisen not so much from the apprehension of harm to the sick, absence of which had been abundantly demonstrated, as from fear of the damage that might come to German science from the exploitation of a secret remedy by one of its physicians.

This idea is expressed in the recent pronouncement of Professor BIER of Berlin. A great hue and cry was raised charging the discoverer with mercenary motives for his secretiveness, and this was enhanced by the reports of sensational offers of millions, reports that appear to have had no foundation in fact. Dr. FRIEDMANN said in an exclusive interview with a representative of THE SUN that this discovery affected mostly the poor and they should have the first benefit from it; that he had no secret, but regarded even the best equipped physician as incapable of judging the proper time interval, dosage and other details, which had occupied his attentive study for ten years, until this physician had the courage of conviction arising from demonstration in a convincing number of cases.

This frank statement to THE SUN has doubtless contributed to the changed attitude of the profession and the public. We urged in the beginning "a fair field and no favors for the foreign scientist," and the most recent developments point to the attainment of this end.

## Twenty-five Years Ago.

If yesterday a hundred thousand ancients, all sure of not being "so old," blathered "I remember in the great blizzard" if the youngest office boy of March 12, 1888, now slowly expanded by time and feeding like Mr. TUPMAN's once romantic form, feels this morning the bite and sting of the most business-like snow ever seen in these parts, or as he pilots his devil wagon along Broadway thinks regretfully of the boxes on runners carrying boards across barrels which were the sole transportation service on March 13, 1888; if to-day many folks bore and some lie and insolent youth thanks heaven it is laden with no such memories, as old to it as the Dark Day or the Year without a Summer, nobody except the weather bureau seeks of that time needs forgive us for looking back to a storm of genius and a town and country put out of business.

No mails, no telegrams, no telephone messages, no elevated cars, no horse cars, no Stock Exchange, no banks, no theatres, no courts; a City Hall deserted; no railroads, no stores, no milk, meat, butter; no getting anywhere; no doing anything; about every energy and function of the community except the newspapers paralyzed; no women in sight, or if a few, they stagger and fall, are blown like gossamers; get home, if they get home, by the kindness of policemen or strangers; telegraph poles and trees sprawled across deserted streets; cabs whose lords get as much as \$25 for trying to take a customer up-town and later are perhaps plunged in a sheer wreck in that ferocious and enormous drifting storm; innocent commuters with no hotel but the packed barrooms, whence comes the only noise in the silentest of New York; ferryboats clamping blindly through the Arctic of the East and North rivers; snow, snow, snow, drift, drift, drift; blow, blow, snow, wind, drift, drift; New York, all white save for the scarlet noses of its few visible citizens; a city beleaguered, conquered for some hours, surprised, finally amused and ready to make the best of it and dig its way out on the morrow and after.

From the west windows of THE SUN about the middle of the afternoon of that March 12 a brilliant reporter looked long and eagerly and could see nothing but two stranded horse cars and three small boys. The latter were perhaps accessories like the figures in COROT's landscapes. Two stranded, melancholy, ludicrous, absurd, impotent horse cars to that was come this wide range of nivolumous New York!

Humph! To our grandchildren horse cars will be as fabulous as hippogriffs. They will never understand why to the elder brethren, heroic survivors of some privations or many Tom and Jerrys on that gifted day, the sight, the smell of unclean straw evokes among other pictures of older New York the Blizzard of '88.

## Devising the Demon Rum.

With Congress supporting the Drys in their stronghold and the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary of State frowning darkly on him, the Rum Devil is in for a gloomy time.

It was the amiable Mrs. HAYES who closed the White House doors to King Alcohol and gave Mr. EVARTS an opportunity to say that "the water flowed like champagne." The enthusiastic white ribbons celebrated this victory on Pennsylvania avenue by giving to the mistress of the White House an ornate and expensive sideboard. In the course of time this monument to virtuous abstinence ceased to command respect and it was quietly disposed of. The chance was too good to be missed; the keeper of a "gilded den" bought it, and to-day it furnishes hot and rebellious liquors for the unregenerate in a Washington saloon.

Mr. BRYAN is a prohibitor, if not a prohibitionist. Mr. WILSON is for all reforms and good works. Mr. MARSHALL comes from Indiana, where every crum-

sade flourishes. May their excellent example turn the bibulous to sobriety!

Boycott on royalty.—Headline  
There will always be sympathetic Americans who will refuse to join.

The maxim that the law doesn't bother about very little things doesn't apply to hatpins. These or many or most of them are as immense as mountains. They are spears, pikes, snickersons, swords of sharpness. In theatre vestibules as the house empties, in the wild struggles of the innumerable slaves of subway and elevated, wherever there is a crowd, wherever there is a man and a woman, this poll sabre is a terror and a danger to the man. See with what a fascinated eye he watches it. He has read hundreds of true histories of its ravages; the eyes it has put out dazzle him; the brains it has pierced addle his.

The protection of life and limb can't be deemed a summary regulation. Is it not reasonable to approve the Massachusetts statute just passed providing that the deadly end of hatpins worn in public shall be sheathed? The rapier is not less beautiful with a foil. The hatpin should not be made aesthetic, the feature of man can be allayed, his miserable life spared. Sovereign woman can still slay with her eyes; she needn't put out the other fellow's.

Aviator PERRINON in a monoplane ascended to a height of 19,800 feet this afternoon at the Buc Aerodrome, establishing a new world's altitude record.—Despatch from Paris.

The deficiency of a mere 200 feet will compel M. GARROS, the previous record holder, to leave his fireside and fly to the top of the Eiffel tower. A cover of height no ascension would attract much attention. Another 10,000 feet is probably beyond the powers of the aviator.

The notice served upon the Belgrade Government by the Austrian Minister, Baron VON ARABYAN, that his Government objected to Serbian troops assisting in the siege of Scutari has a very ugly look, assuming that the news will be confirmed. The Serbians have been fighting side by side with the Montenegrins to take Scutari by assault since hostilities were resumed. Siege guns were brought up by the Serbians, and they have sustained heavy losses. If there was ever a time to object to their reinforcement of the Montenegrins it was before the armistice ended. It has been said that "from the Serbian point of view Scutari is more important than Adrianople or Tehtaldja."

Now that winter is over, say—Philadelphia Record.

Who knows? Put not your trust in mad March. "Trust not her, she's fooling thee," or is mighty likely to do it.

We learn from the City Record of yesterday that the Board of Education met on Wednesday, October 23, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and despatched considerable business. Commissioner TOMKINS also reported the transactions of the Dock Department for each week since June 1, up to and including the week ending with February 8. Thus is opportunity given to watch closely all the activities of municipal officers.

City water is not good enough for the Board of Building Examiners, who make the taxpayers foot the bill for a special spring product. The Bronx coroners also tickle their palates at public expense, just as do the employees in the Municipal Courts and the Court of General Sessions. In the Law Department another kind of bottled water is supplied free—from everybody except the taxpayers. The Sheriff of Kings county wants \$79.20 from the city treasury to pay for his special beverage, and the Board of Water Supply also drinks expensively without cost to its members. Yet many a healthy taxpayer drinks Croton and thinks it good.

## "THE SUN'S" NEWS.

Its Promptness and Accuracy Complimented by One Having Knowledge.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Day before yesterday in the morning a fire broke out in this building, and the tenants, of whom I am one, were awakened and made to flee in haste. Although the halls were filled with smoke there was no panic and no difficulty in making our way to the ground by means of fire escapes, of which, by the way, there are six, on three sides of the building, leading to the streets, elevator and an exit through the Holland House.

Notwithstanding the fact that this took place at 2 A. M., THE SUN had a complete and lucid account of it, the only morning paper that did so. Although the fire was in view of the simple facts above stated, what was our surprise to learn from certain afternoon newspapers that we had been clinging to window ledges, threatening to jump, and rescued by extension ladders and life nets; that we had been unable to find fire escapes and had went hysterically over pet Poms that weren't one in the house, had been wrapped in blankets and found praying on the roof.

We can make a few suggestions for inaccuracies in news items gathered just before going to press, but these sheets had ample time to verify the plain story before turning the sobriquet loose. It is such reporting as this that does the most harm to the honest American newspaper.

But I am writing only to congratulate you, Mr. SUN, upon your admirable and early report of a "small hour" occurrence. AGNES HENKINS.

THE BURLINGTON, N. H., March 10.

## "How!"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In regard to the query in THE SUN as to the origin of the expression "How!" as a salutation, the "Handbook of American Indians," Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Vol. 11, page 429, says:

"Mallory, who devoted much attention to this subject, says: 'The North American Indians do not have many conventional forms of salutation. Their etiquette generally is to meet in silence and smile before speaking. The smile being the real salutation.' But a number of tribes, e. g., the Shoshoni, Caddo and Arikara, use a word or sound very similar to how! in proper literary use. Most of the Sioux use the same sound in communication with the whites, from which the error has arisen that they have caught up and abbreviated the 'How are you?' of the latter. It is a word of greeting, and means 'good' or 'satisfactory.' It is a response as well as an address or salutation." The greeting how, or some variant, was found over a very wide area from Mallory indicates that Mallory was not smoking apocryphal ceremonial visitings. The ordinary passing greeting among plains tribes and probably most others is "Good" in the various languages (Mooney).

It looks very much as if we had appropriated this word from the Indians, together with a few other things. C. A. S. PATTERSON, N. J., March 11.

## Lost We Forget 1888.

The blizzard blew from Kailashano through Oshkosh to Hyannis. Pierce was the roar of sea and shore. But 'twas descent in Gowanus. GOWANUS, March 11. M. A. C.

## THE COST OF OUR WARSHIPS.

An Impressive Comparison Between Contract and Navy Yard Built Vessels.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Representative Fitzgerald, chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House, has repeatedly urged in the House the need of economy. The naval appropriation bill just passed contains a requirement that the single battleship (and only one battleship was authorized, on the ground of economy) should be built in a Government navy yard, meaning of course the Brooklyn navy yard, as no other navy yard is equipped for this work. This amendment was introduced by Mr. Calder of Brooklyn and ably urged by Mr. Fitzgerald, also of Brooklyn.

The report of the Naval Affairs Committee, which accompanied the bill and which was before every member of the House when the bill was considered, contains much valuable information and gives on page 24 a table of the cost of every battleship built for the United States Navy. This table is official and correct. It states the cost of the dreadnought Florida, built in the Brooklyn navy yard, as \$10,190,235, and the cost of the Utah, built by contract, as \$8,019,771.60. This difference of \$2,170,463.31 was absolutely thrown away, as these two vessels are exact duplicates and no one can successfully urge that the Florida is in any way superior to her sister.

In securing the passage of the amendment compelling the building of the proposed ship in the Brooklyn navy yard the United States Treasury and the taxpayers have again been mulcted of over \$2,000,000, a sum sufficient to build one-fifth of a battleship or two destroyers, with a comfortable balance, or many submarines or any other type of auxiliary vessel needed by our navy.

It was stated on the floor of Congress by the interested advocates of this policy that navy yard built ships were enough superior to contract built ships to warrant the added cost. Every technical man familiar with the facts knows better. The battleship Connecticut was built in the Brooklyn navy yard at a greatly increased cost to the people over the Louisiana, built by contract. On page 27 of the committee's report above referred to is a table of the average yearly cost of maintenance, commissioning, &c., of every class of vessel in the navy. This table states that the average yearly cost of battleships is \$698,117.33. Reference is made in this table to a footnote which reads: "Maximum cost being the Connecticut, \$904,094.35." This is certainly strong evidence of superiority of the navy yard built ship, when in a list containing twenty-nine contract built ships and only two navy yard built ships navy yard built ships head the list by \$238,000, or 36 per cent., excess over the average yearly cost.

The following will give an idea of how the people's money is being wasted. The figures are official:

The battleships Maine and Texas, built in navy yards, averaged \$478 cost a ton.

The battleships Oregon, Massachusetts and Indiana, built by contract, averaged \$335 cost a ton.

The cruisers Cincinnati and Raleigh, built in navy yards, averaged \$602 cost a ton.

The cruisers Charleston, Baltimore, Detroit and Minneapolis, built by contract, averaged \$377 cost a ton.

The battleships Connecticut, Florida and New York, built in navy yards, averaged \$284 cost a ton.

The battleships Louisiana, Utah and Texas, built by contract, averaged \$221 cost a ton.

Colliers Jupiter, Vestal and Prometheus, built in navy yards, averaged \$110 cost a ton.

Colliers Cyclops and Neptune, built by contract, averaged \$45.50 cost a ton.

The training ships Cumberland and Intrepid, built in navy yards, averaged \$214 cost a ton.

The training ship Severn, built by contract, cost \$98 a ton.

The tugs Patapasco and Patuxent, built in navy yards, averaged \$25 a ton.

The tugs Sonoma and Ontario, built by contract, averaged \$178 a ton.

In each case comparison has been made between navy yard built ships and contract ships which were built contemporaneously. The total cost of the navy yard built ships alone enumerated is ten and one-half millions of dollars more than that of contemporaneous contract built ships, and this difference was as absolutely thrown away as if it had been dumped overboard in the deepest spot in the North Atlantic.

In addition to this vast sum millions were spent in fitting up the navy yards for building these vessels. Furthermore, the naval bill of last year provides that the fuel ships authorized by the bill shall be built in navy yards; and to cap it all Congress orders that the battleship just authorized must be built in a navy yard.

If this is not class legislation and privilege, what is?

Why should people be taxed so that navy yards can take work from private industry at an added cost to the Government of 20 per cent?

Or should the number of ships badly needed by our splendid navy be cut down so that navy yard employees who are voters may get work at the expense of private yard employees who are also voters? If this is economy, what is extravagance?

NEW YORK, March 11.

## Long Life.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Your correspondent "Ingomar" reproaches me for having said that it would be well for all of us if we were topped off at fifty. I should like to quote him a passage from Voltaire's "Micromégas." Micromégas was a philosopher, an inhabitant of the star Sirius, who was on a visit to the star Saturn. During a conversation with the secretary of the Academy of Sciences of the latter the Saturnian said that people only lived about 15,000 years in his country. "You see," he added with a sigh, "it is to die almost as soon as one is born." To which Micromégas replied: "If you were not a philosopher, you would be afraid to afflict you by telling you that our life is seven hundred times longer than yours, but you know very well that when we have to render up our body to the elements and form, animal nature, under some other form, which is called to die, when this manner of metamorphosis is come, to have lived an eternity, or to have lived only a day, is precisely the same thing. I have been in countries where they live a thousand times longer than in mine, and yet I have found that they complained there too." NEW YORK, March 10. CANDID.

## Grat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: "Grat," as I understand it, is a reward delivered in advance or afterward in recognition of a lawful act performed, but not ordinarily or an unlawful act permitted. Can this be stopped? It could be stopped if the public were strictly moral. The public's (majority) servants will do and expect that which the public demands and offers. NEW YORK, March 11. HUGO SEABERG.

## Before and After.

Stella—I take my husband along to choose a hat.

Bella—I take my hat along to choose a husband.

GOWANUS, March 11. M. A. C.

## "THE DISPENSARY EVIL."

The Position of Unalarmed Physicians Working in the Dispensaries.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: As a suggestion to remedy the "abuse of medical charity" so admirably treated of in your editorial article of Sunday, and to improve the "little interest" shown by the dispensary authorities in the future of their "unalarmed brothers" working in the dispensaries, would it not be well for the "young unalarmed men" just to stop work and let the "unconcerned dispensary authorities" run the institutions themselves?

The chief victims of the "dispensary evil" are the unalarmed doctors who, instead of trying to trap well to do patients' transgressions of the law—patients who, after all, only reveal their human characteristics if they go to a dispensary—should learn a lesson from the workmen and unite, not against the delinquent patients, but against the dispensaries, by simply forcing the latter to obey the law.

Dispensary permits are issued under certain regulations the infringement of which may result in the forfeiture of the said permit. In these permits the status of patients entitled to be treated by the dispensaries is carefully defined. To treat unqualified patients at dispensaries is as illegal as to practise medicine without a license.

This point could very well be expatiated on by the County Medical Society, which is so active in the suppression of medical evils, and brought home to the dispensary authorities by a very simple application of the law governing the practice of medicine in this State.

If the County Medical Society is to be really useful it should show no discrimination between illegal practitioners, whether they be individual doctors or a group of physicians designated as "dispensary authorities."

And of great assistance to the society in its work among the "dispensary authorities" would be an association of the unalarmed doctors who, as has been pointed out, are the chief sufferers from the "dispensary evil."

Such associations abroad, based on the principles of labor organization, have corrected abuses indulged in by the special privileged individual or institution, quite as much as they have promoted the "brotherhood" among the members of the profession, which in this city seems to be solely the misunderstood and thankless task of the County Medical Society.

ARTURO CACCINI, M. D.

NEW YORK, March 11.

## WAGES AND VIRTUE.

Some Testimony From a Veteran Reporter and Observer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Basing its query on the women's wages investigation (Chicago, THE SUN asks: "Is morality purely economic?" and very logically suggests that the tendency of the testimony is to the effect that the virtue of women depends upon the amount of money they have or earn. In my earlier newspaper work I was a police court reporter and this subject especially interested me. I had numerous opportunities of investigation and I do not now recall one instance in which the wages these women might have received at decent labor would have made any difference.

Frequently I have tried to take girls away from the life they were leading and put them on respectable work, but invariably they declined. The same old excuse was given each time: the work was too hard and the pay was too small. The nearest approach to anything like compulsion to follow the life was in the case of the older girls, or women, who had children for whom they could better provide out of their larger earnings. None of these women was willing to make a home for herself and her child or children if she had to give up the "good time" she could have in the underworld.

In New York, under the last two years I have known a girl, under 20, of respectable family, who was earning \$6 a week in a factory; but the work was too hard and the pay too small, though she had a comfortable home and did not need to make it. She took the easiest way to get more money and one night after midnight I met her in upper Broadway and asked her why she was not at home. She laughed—she had not been on the street long enough to have a harsh laugh—and said she was busy. She was inclined to talk and presently told me that she had made \$11 that night and might make more. She wanted to buy a fur coat or some article of jewelry and needed the money. But she was wise enough to know that, when she saw a good chance to marry she did so and went to the country with her husband, where her people tell me she is doing very nicely.

I know other girls, less favorably situated than this one, who are perfectly straight in spite of all temptation—actual need, let me say—and I am convinced that the wages girls receive have very little to do with their sense of right. The lower instinct is born in them, and, richer or poor, if the temptation comes to them in the night, and if all goes well with them after that they experience no qualms of conscience nor have any persistent desire to live a better life. Indeed, a "better life," from their point of view, is not one at all possible.

At the same time I believe that women and girls should be paid a fair living wage and they should be at all times under the best influences possible, such influences as make the line of demarcation distinct between right and wrong.

NEW YORK, March 10.

## Short Stories.

TO THE